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General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Thirty-first session
Agenda item 3

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 23 March 2016

31/4. Commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the Charter of the United Nations and the core human rights instruments,

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

Reaffirming also all Commission on Human Rights, Human Rights Council and General Assembly resolutions on the right to development, the most recent being Council resolution 30/28 of 2 October 2015,

Emphasizing that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Emphasizing also the urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] reaffirming that the Declaration on the Right to Development informed the 2030 Agenda, along with other relevant international instruments, and underlining the fact that the Sustainable Development Goals can be realized only through a credible, effective and universal commitment to the means of implementation by all stakeholders,

Emphasizing that the right to development should be central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Encouraging relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to give due consideration to the right to development in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the fulfilment of his mandate with regard to the implementation of the right to development,

Recognizing that Member States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating lasting obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation, in particular a global partnership for development, for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development, and that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Stressing that, in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the Assembly decided that the responsibility of the High Commissioner shall be, among others, to promote and protect the realization of the right to development and to enhance support from relevant bodies of the United Nations system for that purpose,

Welcoming the contribution of the universal periodic review mechanism to the realization of the right to development,

Recalling that the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development presents a unique opportunity for the international community to demonstrate and reiterate its unequivocal commitment to the right to development, recognizing the high profile it deserves, and redoubling its efforts to implement this right, and encouraging Member States to convene, individually and collectively, events with their own resources for the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Welcoming the decision of the General Assembly to convene a one-day high-level segment of the Assembly, in the margins of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-first session, in order to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development,[2]

1. *Welcomes* the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and stresses the importance of the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to the promotion and protection of the realization of the right to development, while fully recognizing its distinct nature and intrinsic value;

2. *Acknowledges* the work of the High Commissioner for the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and notes with interest the factsheet published thereon in January 2016;[3]

3. *Decides* to convene, at its thirty-second session, a panel discussion on the promotion and protection of the right to development as part of the celebrations of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development;

4. *Invites* the High Commissioner to liaise with States and all stakeholders, including relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, special procedure mandate holders, national human rights institutions and civil society, with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion;

5. *Requests* the High Commissioner to prepare a summary report on the panel discussion and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-third session, and

[2] See General Assembly resolution 70/155.

[3] Fact Sheet No. 37: *Frequently Asked Questions on the Right to Development*.

decides to bring the report to the attention of the General Assembly ahead of the high-level segment to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development;

6. *Encourages* all Member States to engage constructively in all discussions for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

62nd meeting
23March 2016

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 34 to 0, with 13 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burundi, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam

Abstaining:

Albania, Belgium, France, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland]